

Libby
Bentham
ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

FOR
THE YEAR ENDING DECEMBER THIRTY-FIRST
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIVE



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ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS JOINT PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members 1955-56

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Mr. J. H. Stanley, 71 John Morris Road, Abingdon.

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Mrs. E. B. Armitage, Walton House, Sutton Courtenay, Nr. Abingdon.

Lt. Col. S. T. Austin, O.B.E., The White House, Shippon, Nr. Abingdon.

Mr. W. Evans, 1 High Street, Drayton, Nr. Abingdon.

Mr. R. M. Haining, 36 Hanney Road, Steventon, Nr. Abingdon.

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Clerk: Mr. G. V. Spooner, Council Offices, 60 Bath Street, Abingdon.

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(commenced duties 1st April, 1955)

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

Chief Sanitary Inspector T. E. Upton, M.S.I.A.
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Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector T. G. Evans, M.S.I.A.
Additional Sanitary Inspector J. C. Pickup, M.S.I.A.

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

H. E. Tolman, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.:
Council Offices, Faringdon (Telephone 2296)

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE ABINGDON AND FARINGDON DISTRICTS
JOINT HEALTH COMMITTEE

Ladies and Gentlemen:

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year 1955.

In my last report I felt compelled to point out that the word sanitary still meant Health. Since then an Act of Parliament has underlined the extent to which the meaning of the word has been debased by changing our Sanitary Inspectors into Public Health Inspectors.

I am still not allowed, however, to do what I believe to be my statutory duty namely, to give in this report my opinion and advice about what I believe to be the greatest danger to the health of the people in this area.

The words Vital Statistics which head the first part of this report are rapidly coming to mean to many people the relative amount of adipose tissue laid down in the mammary glands and gluteal regions of 'beauty queens'. This and the fact that for having a few more or less ounces of fat in the less usual parts of the body the public are willing to contribute to a 'dumb blonde' the salary of scores of Professors of Arts, Science and Medicine, is a sad commentary on our public scale of values for which the Press must accept their share of responsibility.

A study of the various rates shows that the area continued to compare favourably with national averages. Our Birth rate was one-third higher and actually increased while that of England and Wales decreased, and our Death rates, both Generally and those for Tuberculosis, for Cancer, for Still Births and Infant Mortality were all lower than the National. The actual figures for Tuberculosis were 0.12 per 1,000 and the National 0.14, and those for Cancer 1.37 per 1,004 and the National 2.05.

A great deal has been appearing recently in various sections of the press about Cancer. Much of this has been about the tremendous increase in cancer of the lung and its evident relation to heavy smoking. There has also been much about other forms of Cancer and the need for the public to know more, to detect it early and to secure treatment without delay. Five years ago Abingdon was one of the first pioneers in this contry to start

educating the public to this end and our two main aims have been to dispel the many false and needless fears that surround the subject and secondly, to teach the early signs of those cancers which are most easily recognised early and so most easily cured completely.

The recent series of 6 weekly articles in a popular Sunday newspaper has raised again the question which has produced much controversy in medical and lay circles as to how far it is wise to go in Cancer Education.

The United States has vastly more experience of this than this country has and the articles referred to were based largely on a popular U.S. book soon to be published over here.

Most of the opposition from Doctors in this country to cancer education comes from their desire not to increase the number of people haunting G.P.s' surgeries who are called "Cancerophobes". These are people who fear they have cancer and cannot be disabused of their fear without repeated and costly x-rays, operations or investigations for which there are at present inadequate facilities in this country.

In drawing conclusions from facts in the U.S. we have to remember that medical treatment is very much more commercialised and costly over there. The average American is taught to spend a much larger part of his income on Doctors, Hospitals, Medicines and Vitamins, X-Rays and tests, etc., than is the case over here and a degree of concern about Cancer which might be quite welcome to the interests concerned in the U.S. would be quite out of place here at present.

In Britain I am still sure that we can only hope for the essential support of the General Practitioners if we confine our education chiefly to those cancers which are most easily detected and most curable, namely those of the breast, womb, skin, lip, tongue and throat.

It is only possible here to give the briefest summary of what should be widely known by everyone over 35, as cancer is extremely rare under that age, but becomes increasingly common after 45 or 50.

Cancer is frequently curable if detected early and in the parts mentioned above is curable in over half the early cases. These districts contain many people who have been cured. After most of my talks to the larger Women's Institutes one or more women have told me of their cure five, ten or twenty years ago.

Surveys elsewhere show that one out of two women over 21 believes that Cancer is never curable, and while this false idea persists it is not surprising that women refuse to seek early detection. Perhaps a movement like Alcoholics Anonymous is desirable.

Most people think that cancer is painful and this idea is quite dangerous as it keeps people from consulting their Doctor while they have no pain.

Cancer is, like dental decay, essentially painless. Therein lies its tragedy. If only it were always painful from the start most of its dangers could and would be removed. Alas it is only in its later stages that it causes pain through spread and pressure.

Cancer is never infectious. No Doctor or Nurse ever caught it by handling their patients.

Cancer is not hereditary and does not run in families though it is so common as sometimes to appear so.

Cancer is nothing whatever to be ashamed of. Kings and paupers, saints and sinners suffer from it equally.

The early signs of the most curable forms of cancer are the following and though they often may not mean cancer, if they are present a Doctor should be consulted without a week's delay.

Skin of Head, Lips, Tongue, Mouth. Any ulcer or sore which does not show signs of healing within three weeks.

Breast. Any hard lump which can be felt with the flat of the hand or with the palm, or any bleeding from the nipple or any puckering of the skin.

Womb. Any irregular loss of blood—that is any loss which is unusual to that person. After the 'Change of life' any loss at all, however small, is a warning sign.

All the above is explained in greater detail in a small booklet called 'Fear and Ignorance are the enemies'. This is written by an expert, Dr. Malcolm Donaldson, and a copy can be obtained free by application to any of our three Council Offices.

There are of course cancers of other parts of the body which are more common, such as those of the lung, stomach and intestines, but they do not reveal their presence at all early and are usually quite difficult and expensive to detect. At present this country is simply not equipped to tackle this problem. To do so

would require a great expansion in the X-ray facilities available, the opening of hundreds of special cancer diagnostic clinics, the provision of extra hospital beds and operating and other facilities to cut out the waiting period between diagnosis and operation, urgent priority given to operations likely to be curative over those that are only palliative, refresher courses for General Practitioners to help them in early detection, and education of the public to make them wise enough to seek the earliest and best use of all the above.

All this, of course, would need to be nation-wide and would cost far more than we are at present prepared to afford, though it would only cost a small fraction of what we spend on 'defence'.

With regard to the now well-known close relation between heavy smoking and the commonest form of male cancer—namely of the lung, the fact which is far too little recognised and which young people should take into account, is that for a large number of people smoking becomes an addiction. They cannot do without it not because they like the pleasure of smoking but because they are miserable without it.

This was brought home to me when in New York in 1944. A batch of G.I.'s released after several years in German prison camps were asked by reporters what they found hardest to bear during those years. Some said not knowing how their families or loved ones were, others not knowing what was happening in the war, etc., but as many as one-third said that being limited to a hundred cigarettes a week was their worst trial.

Finally, may I express my sincerest thanks to the Chairman and Councillors who have been so friendly and helpful; to the General Practitioners and Nurses of the area for their willing support and co-operation, and to my colleagues on the staff of the Councils, and especially to the Public Health Inspectors for their cheerful and efficient conduct of the great variety and volume of tasks referred to in this report.

Your obedient Servant,

NORMAN PARFIT,

Medical Officer of Health.

VITAL STATISTICS

In this first section are collected the various tables which summarise the vital statistics of the three Authorities grouped together. It is followed by sections which deal separately with matters affecting the health of each Authority.

AREA AND POPULATION

The following table shows the area of each district with the estimated population at the middle of 1955. The table shows that Abingdon Rural District is considerably more densely populated than the average Rural area in England and Wales (.20) but that Abingdon Borough and Faringdon Rural Districts are very close to the average.

District	Area in Acres	Est. Mid-1955 Pop.	Inc/Dec. on 1954	Persons per Acre
Abingdon Borough	1,754	12,140	400	6.92
Abingdon Rural District	41,185	25,390	940	.61
Faringdon Rural District	55,726	13,450	250	.24
Totals	98,665	50,980	1590	.52

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The following table shows the totals of Births and Deaths and the 'corrected' rates per 1,000 of Population. 'Corrected' rates are those which take due account of the actual age and sex composition of each area by being multiplied by the 'comparability factor' supplied by the Registrar General. They may then be fairly compared with those of the nation as a whole, or with the corrected rates of any other area. The factors for Births and Deaths are as follows: Abingdon Borough .93; 1.10; Abingdon Rural 1.04; 1.18; and Faringdon Rural 1.04; 1.06. (Figures for 1954 are in brackets).

District	Births	Birth rate per 1000 of Pop.	Deaths	Death rate per 1000 of Pop.
Abingdon Borough	254 (247)	21.08	132 (87)	11.9
Abingdon Rural	521 (460)	21.3	199 (206)	9.3
Faringdon Rural	262 (249)	20.2	124 (118)	9.7
Totals	1037 (956)	20.6	455 (411)	10.0
England and Wales		15.0 (15.2)		11.7 (11.3)

INFANT MORTALITY

District	Deaths of Infants under 1 year	Live Births	Infant Mortality per 1000 live births
Abingdon Borough	7	250	28.0
Abingdon Rural District	8	515	15.5
Faringdon Rural District	4	259	15.4
Totals	19 (17)	1024 (937)	18.5 (18.1)
England and Wales			24.9 (25.5)

CAUSES OF DEATH

The 455 deaths in the area were accounted for as follows:—

Cause	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total
Heart Disease	25	64	40	129
Vascular lesions of the Nervous system (Stroke)	20	34	19	73
Other Diseases of the Circulatory system	11	6	7	24
Cancer	22	31	17	70
Bronchitis	8	9	5	22
Pneumonia	7	5	3	15
Influenza	—	1	1	2
Other Diseases of the Respiratory system	5	3	1	9
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	3	2	1	6
Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—
Road Accidents	1	5	—	6
All Other Accidents	4	7	6	17
Ulcer of Stomach	3	2	1	6
Suicide	3	1	1	5
Diabetes	2	2	1	5
Nephritis	—	1	3	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	2	1	1	4
Congenital Malformations	1	1	1	3
Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	—	2	—	2
Meningococcal Infection	1	1	—	2
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	1
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
All other Causes	13	21	16	50
Total all causes	132	199	124	455

STILL BIRTHS

District	Legitimate	Illegitimate	Total	Per 1000 total births
Abingdon Borough	4	—	4	15.7
Abingdon Rural District	6	—	6	11.5
Faringdon Rural District	3	—	3	15.2
Totals	13	—	13	12.7
England and Wales				23.1

MATERNAL MORTALITY

For the third successive year there were no deaths attributed to accidents of childbirth.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table gives the number of cases of infectious disease (other than tuberculosis) notified during 1955, with the 1954 figures in brackets.

Disease	Abingdon Borough	Abingdon Rural	Faringdon Rural	Total all Districts
Measles	359 (3)	326 (88)	95 (66)	780(157)
Whooping Cough	44 (23)	74 (57)	6 (19)	124 (99)
Scarlet Fever	14 (15)	10 (26)	8 (9)	32 (50)
Pneumonia	13 (15)	16 (19)	— (—)	29 (34)
Dysentery	9 (—)	14 (1)	— (—)	23 (1)
Erysipelas	6 (1)	6 (3)	— (—)	12 (4)
Food Poisoning	1 (4)	5 (2)	— (—)	6 (6)
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1 (—)	1 (—)	1 (—)	3 (—)
Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
Meningococcal Infection	2 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	3 (—)
Puerperal Pyrexia	1 (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	2 (—)
Encephalitis (Post-Infectious)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Typhoid Fever	— (—)	1 (—)	— (—)	1 (—)
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	— (1)	— (—)	— (—)	— (1)
Total	451 (62)	457(196)	110 (94)	1018(352)

TUBERCULOSIS (New Cases)

The following table shows the number of new cases of Tuberculosis notified during the year, distinguishing between the more serious cases affecting the lungs (Pulmonary) and those affecting other parts of the body. 21 out of 29 Pulmonary cases, or 73%, were aged 15 to 45.

Age Periods	Abingdon Borough		Abingdon Rural		Faringdon Rural		Total (all Districts)	
	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.	Pul.	Non. Pul.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1
5—10	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	2
10—15	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
15—20	—	1	3	—	—	—	3	1
20—25	1	—	3	—	—	1	4	1
25—35	4	1	6	—	—	—	10	1
35—45	3	—	4	2	—	—	7	2
45—55	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
55—65	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
Over 65	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Total	11	5	17	3	1	2	29	10
1954 Figures	19	2	37	4	3	2	59	8

ABINGDON BOROUGH

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 129. These consisted of 108 Council Houses and 21 built by private enterprise. A further 285 houses were under construction on 31st December 1955, of which 256 were Council Houses and 29 were private.

The above brought the number of Council houses to a total of 1,400 of which 570 were built before the war and 830 completed since the war.

The rents of pre-war houses ranged from 13/1d. to 22 8d., including rates, with an average of 17/1d. per week. This compares with an average of 16/2d. for 1954. Rents for post-war houses ranged from 13/- to 71/2d. including rates, the average being approximately 34/- per week, as compared with 27/3d. in 1954. The number of applications for new Council houses on 31st December 1955 was 390. This was 85 less than at the end of 1954 and 210 less than at the end of 1953.

CARAVANS

The Council continued to maintain, on one of the Council Estates, a small caravan site which accommodates 19 caravans. This met a steady demand and the facilities provided are appreciated by the occupants. In addition there are 14 caravans licensed on individual sites, and a private yard is licensed to accommodate 11, making a total of 44 caravans.

86 caravans were inspected prior to their entry into the Borough on the occasion of the Michaelmas Fair.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

A weekly collection of household refuse has been maintained despite shortage of labour. Trade refuse is collected as required, for the most part under contracts.

The refuse tip at the rear of Abbey House was finally filled in during September. The site has been purchased by two private firms and its development for industrial purposes commenced.

During the year a Sutton Loader was purchased for the purpose of compacting, levelling and covering the tipped refuse. This machine has proved most suitable for the purpose and has enabled the Abbey House site to be handed over in a reasonable condition.

Tipping has commenced at Wick Hall, Radley Road, in the area of the Abingdon Rural District Council.

SALVAGE

The waste paper market has remained steady during the year, the total from salvage sales was £506 10s. 3d., compared with £396 in 1954. It was made up of the following:—

Waste Paper	£422 1s. 9d.
Rags	£65 3s. 6d.
Scrap Metal	£19 5s. 0d.

MORTUARY

The Mortuary was used on 70 occasions and this included 51 post-mortem examinations. Once during the year the facilities proved insufficient and temporary use was made of the nearby Red Cross Hut. This was following the railway crash at Milton in November when accommodation had to be found for 10 fatal casualties.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

With regard to the proposed improvement in the Borough's sewerage system and sewage disposal works, it is hoped that the recent alleviation in the shortage of staff in the office of the Borough Engineer will now allow the design work to be carried forward to contract stage.

WATER

For many years the water supply, which comes as to one-third from adits and wells at Wootton and Lashford Lane and as to the remaining two-thirds from the Oxford City Council's Water Undertaking, has been metered to domestic as well as trade consumers with the result that consumption has only been about half that of other similar Urban communities.

During the year the provisional proposals were approved for Oxford to supply the whole of the water needed by the Borough and the detailed work is being prepared for Ministry approval. When this is done it will be possible to abolish all metering to Domestic properties.

SWIMMING POOL

The Corporation have one public Open Air Swimming Pool situated in Abbey Meadow. The river water is changed weekly and purified by chlorination. Frequent checks are made to ensure that adequate residual chlorine is present in the water.

12 samples were taken during the year and submitted for bacteriological examination. These reports show that the chlorination is quite effective in reducing the number of bacteria present to extremely small figures and is a considerable improvement on ordinary untreated Thames water.

MILK

The Borough is now included in a Specified Area and all milk retailed in the area is subject to heat treatment.

During the year 17 samples of milk were taken in the course of delivery or at schools in the Borough and submitted for bacteriological examination to Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. One sample only failed to satisfy this latter test.

ICE CREAM

37 Samples were taken and submitted for analysis to the Public Health Laboratory, and were provisionally graded as shown below. Comparison with previous years shows the constant improvement especially when it is remembered that the standard suggested by the Ministry of Health is "... that over a six-monthly period, 50 per cent. of a vendor's samples should fall into Grade 1, 80 per cent. into Grades 1 or 2, not more than 20 per cent. into Grade 3, and none in Grade 4".

	1955	1954	1953	1952	1951	1950
Grade I	31	26	33	28	14	16
Grade II	6	5	5	14	5	6
Grade III	0	2	1	3	2	4
Grade IV	0	1	2	1	1	4
Totals	37	34	41	46	22	30

MEAT

Messrs. Cottrell's (Abingdon) Ltd. bacon factory was modernised during the year, but the congested layout of these premises makes it difficult to provide ideal facilities. The general condition of the premises has however been greatly improved.

Additional lairage accommodation was provided at Caldecott Abattoir and proposals have been put forward to increase their refrigeration facilities.

The two private slaughterhouses were re-licensed during the year for a period ending 31st December, 1957.

The following table sets out the number of carcasses inspected, together with particulars of carcasses and offal found to be affected with tuberculosis and other conditions.

Caldecott Abattoir

	No. Slaughtered	No. T.B.	—No. found to be affected—			Whole carcasses	
			% of total	Other Condition	% of total	T.B.	Other Condition
Steers and Heifers	950	61	6.6	311	34	2	8
Cows	730	138	21	274	38	15	6
Bulls	5	3	60	—	—	—	—
Sheep	3739	—	—	191	5.6	—	23
Calves	674	3	.4	13	1.9	3	10
Pigs	14689	220	1.5	1803	12	1	39
Goats	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	20789	425	—	2592	—	21	86

Bacon Factory

Pigs	3859	39	1	274	7.1	—	8
Total	3859	39	—	274	—	—	8
Grand Total	24648	464	—	2868	—	21	94

Weight of diseased and unsound meat and offal condemned

Caldecott Abattoir

	tons	cwts.	qtrs.	lbs.
Meat	13	1	2	7
Offal	10	5	3	4

Cottrell's Bacon Factory

Meat		12	1	27
Offal		6	2	19
Total	24	6	2	1

Analysis of Causes of Condemnation of Carcases

Disease	Steers and Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total
T.B. Generalised	2	15	3	—	1	21
Oedema (General)	2	2	1	5	9	19
Oedema and Emaciation	—	—	1	9	—	10
Septicaemia	1	—	1	—	9	11
Pleurisy and Peritonitis	1	—	—	—	8	9
Pneumonia (Septic)	—	2	—	4	3	9
Immaturity	—	—	4	—	—	4
Total	6	19	10	18	30	83

(a) The bulk of condemned meat and offal at the Caldecott Abattoir is disposed of in a digester and processing plant adjoining the premises. A certain amount of meat was sent to other areas for processing into pet animal food. In each case the local authority concerned was informed, and a favourable report received in respect of these premises.

(b) **Tape worm.** Routine examination of all cattle was carried out and in 12 cases (0.71%) cysts of *Cysticercus Bovis* were found and the affected carcases and offal dispatched to Cold Storage accommodation at East Hagbourne, Reading or Oxford.

Liaison with local authorities concerned ensured that the carcases and offal were refrigerated at a temperature below 20°F for 21 days before release.

(c) **Tuberculosis (Slaughter of Reactors) Order 1950 and Tuberculosis Order, 1938.** 4 Cows were notified and examined under these orders during the year. In one case the T.B. Lesions were generalised and the carcase and organs condemned.

(d) **Liver Fluke.** A serious loss to the meat trader continued to be caused by the presence of the parasite 'fasciola hepatica' in bovine livers. At Caldecott Abattoir, 21.1% of bovine livers were so affected by the parasite that the whole or a considerable proportion of the organ had to be condemned.

OTHER FOODS

The following foodstuffs were condemned:

60 lbs. Sultanas	75 lbs. Cheese
12 lbs. Beef Sausages	14 lbs. Crab
14 lbs. Skate	28 lbs. Herrings
19 lbs. Ham	5 lbs. Polish Smoked Bacon

414 lbs. Tins of various Foodstuffs.

FOOD PREMISES

The number of the various types of premises in the Borough and the number of visits paid to them during the year was as follows:

Type	No. Visits	Type	No. Visits
Bacon Factory	1 280	Cafes and Restaurants	17 21
Abattoir	1 619	Bakeries	6 11
Sale and Manufacture of Preserved Food	6 86	Licensed Premises	35 12
Grocers and General Stores	39 40	Dairies	1 2
Sale of Ice-Cream	31 37	Fresh and Fried Fish Merchants	6 5
Butchers	10 20	Greengrocers	12 14

HOUSING

A. Inspections of Dwelling houses during the year:

- (i) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects..... 126
- (ii) No. of inspections made..... 200
 - 2. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 3
 - 3. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 83

B. Remedy of Defects during the year:

- Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action 4

C. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

- Demolition Orders 3

Improvement Grants: 7 houses were improved or modernised during the year with the assistance of Improvement Grants made jointly by the Council and the Ministry of Housing, pursuant to the provisions of the Housing Acts, 1949-54.

The principal works of improvement were:—

Additional bedroom	1
Additional living room	1
Bathrooms	4
Hot Water Systems	6
Improvement to kitchens and food stores	4
Damp-proof course	1

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including laundries)	10	2	2	—
Workshops (including laundries)	59	19	4	—
Workplaces	6	—	—	—
Total	75	21	6	—

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred --	
			To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of cleanliness	1	1	—	1
Inadequate ventilation (S4)	1	1	—	—
Insufficient Sanitary conveniences	2	1	—	2
Unsuitable or Defective sanitary conveniences	2	2	—	2
Other offences against Act	2	—	2	—
Total	8	5	2	5

The number of Outworkers in the August list was 5, all engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTORS' WORK DURING 1955

General Sanitation Visits:

Drainage	81
Stables and Piggeries	7
Offensive Trades	14
Tents, Vans, and Sheds	162
Factories	21
Workshops	2
Workplaces	5
Bakehouses	11
Refuse Collection	36
Refuse Disposal	231
Rats and Mice	5
Smoke Observations	7
Schools	6
Shops	3
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	154
Fairs	4
Petroleum	12

Housing:

Number of houses Inspected	319
Number of Verminous premises Inspected	11
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	25

Infectious Diseases

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	19
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Meat and Food Inspection, Visits, etc.

Slaughterhouses	899
Shops and Stalls	27
Butchers	20
Fishmongers and Poulterers	5
Grocers	40
Greengrocers and Fruiterers	14
Dairies and Milkshops	2
Ice-Cream Premises	37
Restaurants	21
Food Preparing Premises	86
Market Stalls	154
Total number of visits made	2441
Number of Complaints received	100
„ Defects or nuisances discovered	70
„ Notices served (Informal)	101
„ Notices served (Statutory)	7
„ Prosecutions	Nil
„ Water samples taken for analysis	21

ABINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

Parish	Est. Pop. Mid. 1955	Area in Acres	Total Houses	Council Houses	Rateable Value £	Product of ld. Rate £ s.
Appleford	300	862	81	14	1378	3 18
Appleton with Eaton	696	2077	220	33	4571	13 4
Besselsleigh	96	906	21	2	570	1 11
Cumnor	3030	5672	956	256	40807	100 17
Draycott Moor	554	1054	118*	63*	2415	6 9
Drayton	1545	2604	478	96	10510	27 0
Frilford	169	1147	57	—	3070	8 5
Fyfield and Tubney	520	2746	163	24	4338	12 9
Garford	122	1068	38	4	498	1 14
Kennington	2095	1369	691	82	25710	60 5
Kingston Bagpuize	216	1109	74	16	1380	3 17
Lyford	106	774	43	—	221	15
Marcham	788	2514	241	42	9024	24 1
Milton	872	1466	215	36	18117	61 8
North Hinksey	3783	1087	1209	72	50962	111 1
Radley	1301	2863	297	63	15753	44 18
St. Helen Without	2526	2047	250	8	26618	81 7
South Hinksey	323	509	90	8	4650	13 11
Steventon	1498	2401	353‡	80‡	9371	28 1
Sunningwell	912	1332	241	38	11767	37 4
Sutton Courtenay	1803	2103	438	38	30428	108 12
Wootton	1950	1523	581	95	23551	58 7
Wytham	185	1992	55	—	3484	7 13
Southern Gas Board (over whole area)					502	8 16
Totals	25390	41225	6910	1070	£299695	£807 11
Totals for 1954	24450	41225	6605	1044	£192029	£771 13

*Includes 41 Camp Hutments.

‡Includes 18 Camp Hutments.

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 375. These consisted of 53 new Council Houses and 322 built by Private Enterprise. A further 354 were under construction on 31st December 1955, of which 72 were Council Houses and 282 were private.

The distribution of these 729 houses is shown in the following table:

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed:	Under Con- struction 31.12.55	Completed:	Under Con- struction 31.12.55
Appleford	—	—	—	3
Appleton with Eaton	—	—	3	2
Besselsleigh	—	—	—	—
Cumnor	29	—	27	35
Draycott Moor	—	—	3	2
Drayton	—	—	5	3
Frilford	—	—	2	1
Fyfield and Tubney	—	—	4	2
Garford	—	—	—	—
Kennington	2	48	126	88
Kingston Bagpuize	—	—	—	—
Lyford	—	—	—	—
Marcham	—	—	2	4
Milton	—	—	1	1
North Hinksey	—	—	121	120
Radley	—	—	3	4
St. Helen Without	—	—	1	1
South Hinksey	—	—	3	—
Steventon	12	6	2	2
Sunningwell	—	—	3	1
Sutton Courtenay	—	—	3	3
Wootton	10	18	13	10
Wytham	—	—	—	—
Totals	53	72	322	282
Totals for 1954	171	51	184	153

TEMPORARY DWELLINGS

At Wootton 40 prefabricated bungalows continue to be used as housing accommodation, together with two sites listed below which contain huts converted into living units the maintenance of which is the Council's responsibility.

Steventon. Further progress has been made in re-housing families in this camp, and dismantling of all huts, when vacated, has taken place. The number of families living there was reduced during the year from 33 to 18.

Kingston Bagpuize. Dismantling and evacuation of the camp has continued, and the number of families living there was reduced from 53 to 41.

RENTS

Pre-war Council houses were let at the standard rent of 15/- or 17/6 per week which could be reduced to a minimum of 5/- by various rebates. Post-war council houses had a standard rent of 22/6 which could be reduced to a minimum of 5/- by rebate or increased to a maximum of 27/6 in the presence of lodgers or of sons or daughters over 16 years of age.

'Prefabs' were let at 14/- and camp huts at 7/6 per week. This last figure is inclusive while all the others are exclusive of rates.

HOUSING IMPROVEMENTS

Repair and improvement work to all classes of property has continued throughout the year, and the following table shows the distribution of the work:—

Parish	Housing Conversions	Additional Bedrooms	New Bathrooms	New WC's
Appleford	2	4	2	2
Appleton	1	—	2	2
Cumnor	—	3	—	1
Drayton	—	—	1	2
Fyfield and Tubney	—	—	2	2
Kennington	1	2	5	5
Marcham	—	—	2	3
Milton	—	1	1	1
North Hinksey	—	—	—	1
South Hinksey	—	—	7	7
Steventon	—	—	3	4
Sunningwell	—	—	1	1
Sutton Courtenay	1	2	1	1
Wootton	—	—	2	2
Totals	5	12	30	34
Figures for 1954	4	35	39	37

The above figures include 18 houses which have been modernised and improved with the aid of Improvement Grants made by the Council under the authority of the Housing Acts 1949-54. The number of grants approved by the Council is steadily rising year by year and it is felt that this is due to national publicity and the fact that members of the public are made fully conversant with the provisions of the Act when visiting the offices.

HOUSING SURVEY

In accordance with the Ministry of Housing and Local Government's instructions given in the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954, the Housing Survey, commenced last year, was completed. Comprehensive reports were made on individual parishes, together with site plans indicating the properties inspected, and these were submitted to the Council. The Survey showed that the Council are required to deal, in one way or another, with 509 unfit houses and cottages during the next five years. Included in this total are 60 already subject to Orders, and a further 83 are considered to be in such bad condition as to justify demolition procedure; thus leaving 366 houses deemed to be unfit at the time of the Survey, the majority of which could be brought up to a satisfactory standard of fitness.

MOVABLE DWELLINGS

The total number of caravans licensed in the district during the year increased by 49, from 369 to 418.

The following list shows their disposition on 31st December 1955:

2	Appleford	24	Kennington	19	South Hinksey
53	Cumnor	2	Marcham	6	Steventon
1	Draycott Moor	6	Milton	15	Sunningwell
70	Drayton	26	North Hinksey	5	Sutton Courtenay
7	Frilford	160	Radley	14	Wootton
1	Fyfield and Tubney	7	St. Helen Without		

The largest increases were at Radley 18, Cumnor 8, and Drayton 5.

The demand for caravan sites in parts of this district is quite insatiable even if caravan life was to be encouraged which, where children are concerned, is highly questionable.

All sites have been subject to frequent inspections throughout the year.

SALVAGE

A total of 29 tons of waste paper and rags was sold during the year. After deduction of bonuses, a net sum of £166 was received for the relief of the rates.

REFUSE COLLECTION

The weekly kerbside collection of household refuse has continued as in previous year. Three refuse collecting vehicles have been fully employed and owing to the steadily increasing volume of refuse requiring collection it will soon be necessary for the Council to have a fourth vehicle. The increasing number of new houses and caravans in the district, together with what appear to be the changing habits of householders when dealing with waste material, are the prime causes of the heavy increase in the volume of refuse requiring collection and disposal.

The refuse tip at Kennington has been completed and sealed. Facilities for disposal have been obtained in disused gravel pits at Farmoor, and although in many ways the site is an improvement on that at Kennington, an additional strain on the service will undoubtedly occur, owing to the larger haul from the main centres of population to the point of disposal.

The future use of the Kennington Tip is uncertain, but the possibility of the area being planted with trees is being examined.

The refuse tip at Milton has continued in use as in previous years.

WATER

The northern and central areas of the district, comprising 17 parishes, continue to be served by a piped supply from the Oxford City Water Undertaking, who carry out regular sampling for bacteriological and chemical analyses.

The following table gives details of dwellings receiving water from piped supplies:—

Parish	Total No. of Dwelling Houses	No. of Houses supplied with main water	No. of Houses supplied by standpipes
Oxford City Water Undertaking			
Appleton	220	140	—
Besselsleigh	21	15	—
Cumnor	956	915	—
Draycott Moor	118	108	—
Frilford	57	47	—
Fyfield and Tubney	163	116	—
Garford	38	33	—
Kennington	691	641	—
Kingston Bagpuize	74	52	—
Marcham	241	163	—
North Hinksey	1209	1147	—
Radley	297	262	—
St. Helen Without	250	214	—
South Hinksey	90	87	—
Sunningwell	241	231	—
Wootton	581	575	—
Wytham	55	25	—
Total	5302	4771	—
Abingdon R.D.C. Undertaking			
Drayton	478	369	98
Milton	215	156	43
Steventon	353	162	131
Sutton Courtenay	438	312	94
Total	1484	999	366
Not supplied with Main Water			
Appleford	81	—	—
Lyford	43	—	—
Total	124	—	—
Grand Total	5910	5770	366

The supply of water to the southern parishes of Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay is still supplied in bulk by Wantage R.D.C. All samples of water, with the exception of one, were placed in Class I of the Ministry of Health's Grading, after being submitted for bacteriological examination. The failure occurred at Milton Hill when it was decided to bring the reservoir into operation again, but trouble with the ball valve at the reservoir resulted in loss of water, and the reservoir at present is out of commission. A brake pressure valve next to the

reservoir at Steventon proved to be unsatisfactory, but a replacement resulted in a great degree of control being obtained over the pressure of water.

As reported last year the Council has under consideration the provision of main water for the village of Lyford. A possible source of supply was thought to have been the newly constructed borehole at Lyford Grange, but numerous samples taken for chemical analysis and bacteriological examination have shown the source to be unsuitable for use as a public supply. The Council are now pursuing the possibility of obtaining a bulk supply from either Faringdon R.D.C. by connecting to the link main at Charney Basset, or alternatively to connect to the link main at West Hanney supplied by Wantage R.D.C. Negotiations are taking place with both authorities and a decision has not yet been reached as to which supply is to be taken, but it is hoped this will be made in the near future.

The results of bacteriological examination of water samples taken from standpipes and reservoirs in the southern parishes are shown in the following table:—

	Total	Highly Satisfactory	Slight Contamination	Heavy
Drayton	1	1	—	—
Milton	3	2	1	—
Steventon	—	—	—	—
Sutton Courtenay	2	2	—	—
Total	6	5	1	—

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The main Botley-Kennington scheme continues to function satisfactorily. As stated in the previous report, the ever-increasing quantity of sewage which the plant is expected to deal with may present some difficulty at a future date unless some extension to the works is undertaken.

The small temporary disposal works constructed to serve the Council's housing estates functioned reasonably satisfactorily throughout the year in the following parishes: Radley, Drayton, Sutton Courtenay, Sunningwell, Appleton, Fyfield and Milton. Negotiations are proceeding with a view to connecting the Council's housing site at Bayworth to the Wootton Main Sewerage Scheme, as the existing temporary disposal works require major works of repair in order to function at maximum efficiency.

(1) Whitecross, Sunningwell, Wootton, and parts of St. Helen Without

The main drainage scheme serving the above parishes is now in operation and functioning satisfactorily.

The second phase was completed this year and included Wootton village, Cumnor Road, part of Besselsleigh Road, Sandleigh Road, Berrymere Road, Lansdown Road and the southern part of Lashford Lane. There remains to be completed the construction of an ejector station in Lashford Lane to enable all the properties at the southern end of the Lane, including the Dry Sandford County Primary School, to be connected to the Sewer.

It is worth noting that the overall response in persons connecting their properties to the main sewerage scheme has been good. During the year the total number of houses connected to the sewer was about 500.

(2) Appleton and part of Cumnor

Further representations have been made to the Minister of Housing and Local Government with a view to obtaining a starting date for the proposed main sewerage scheme. Due to recent financial restrictions the Minister is unable to award a starting date, but has intimated that his consent would not be deferred longer than is necessary.

(3) Part of Cumnor and Radley

No further developments have taken place concerning the starting date of the above main sewerage scheme. As a result of road reconstruction works at Cumnor Hill, the Minister of Housing and Local Government permitted the extension of the sewer to take in the majority of premises at Cumnor Hill. This extension has now been completed and serves properties as far as the junction of Cumnor Hurst Lane with Cumnor Hill, together with the south side of Norreys Road. The remainder of this part of Cumnor would have to be considered in conjunction with the Appleton-Cumnor Scheme.

(4) Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay

Work has been commenced on the first phase of the main sewerage scheme to include the above parishes. This will take in the more closely developed parts of Drayton, Milton, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay, and provides for a central sewage disposal works to which sewage is pumped from each of the villages. It is not anticipated that this part of the scheme will be in operation much before the end of 1957.

MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS

The total number of "Distributors" who have been registered under the above and who retail milk in this district is 4. One dairy (not being a Dairy Farm) has been registered. Eight firms retail in the area under cover of Supplementary Licences.

Taking samples of milk from schools supplied by six dealers retailing in this area has continued each quarter throughout the year. Out of 23 samples taken for examination, one failed to satisfy the Methylene Blue Test and another the Phosphatase Test, and in each case the appropriate authority was notified of the adverse result.

It came to the notice of the Council that goat's milk was being sold to the public in one particular instance. Although the Council is under no statutory obligation to sample milk of this nature, it was thought advisable to take one for examination and the result proved the milk to be satisfactory. An arrangement has been made with the owner of the goats to have the milk sampled three or four times a year in view of the fact that it is consumed largely by small children acting under medical advice.

FOOD PREMISES

Once again attention has been paid to all types of food premises during the year. The total number is 128, comprising 74 shops, 49 public houses and 5 bakehouses.

Routine inspections of most of the premises, including bakehouses, were carried out, and it was observed that a high standard of hygiene is being achieved by the majority of shopkeepers.

The older type of village bakehouse finds it increasingly difficult to meet modern requirements and one regrettably closed during the year.

Improvements have also been made to public houses in the area, and it is most noticeable that better toilet accommodation is being provided where possible.

Inspections were also made under the Shops Act, 1950, and in the main, sanitary conveniences and washing facilities were provided on the premises

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

During the year the following foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered after examination had shown them to be unfit for human consumption:—

Luncheon meat (tinned)	24 lbs.
Steak and Kidney Pie (tinned)	6 lbs.
Imported Beef	32 lbs.
Grapefruit (tinned)	2½ lbs.
Fruit Salad (tinned)	6 lbs.
Corned Beef (tinned)	43 lbs.
Lunch Tongue (tinned)	18 lbs.
Sausages	12 lbs.
Pineapple (tinned)	1 lb.
Garden Peas (tinned)	1 lb.

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Rodent Officer carried out control work under the above Act by means of poison.

The total number of visits to premises during the year was 2671, and the number of dead rats and mice recovered was 37. Infestation work was carried out at 503 premises.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including laundries)	6	5	—	—
Workshops (including laundries)	39	27	1	—
Total	45	32	1	—

There was one defect found, and remedied, during the year. This was in respect of inadequate ventilation, and was referred by H.M. Inspector.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK

DURING THE YEAR 1955

No. of different premises visited	958
.. Visits made	1760
.. Complaints received	143
.. Defects or Nuisances discovered	130
.. Notices served (Informal)	76
.. Notices served (Statutory)	Nil
.. Prosecutions	Nil

Matters in relation to which visits were made:

Nuisances	136
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	12
Drainage	90
Keeping of Animals	14
Water Supplies	120
Pollution (streams or ditches)	30
Refuse Collection	85
Refuse Disposal	113
Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.	465
Unclean Houses	2
Butchers' Shops	39
Bakehouses	12
Food Premises	90
Public Houses	30
Dairy Inspections	12
Milk Supplies	24
Shops (other than food shops)	8
Petroleum Storage	44
Factories and Workplaces	40
Outworkers	18
Miscellaneous	376

No. of Defects or Nuisances abated:

As to Privies, W.C.'s, Sink Wastes	30
.. Drains or Cesspools	54
.. Pigs or other animals	8
.. Dairies, etc.	Nil
.. Deficient or impure water	10
.. Unclean Houses	2
.. Overcrowded houses	Nil
.. Polluted ditches, streams, etc.	12
.. Insanitary accumulations or deposits	15
.. Other defects or nuisances	12

No. of Premises disinfected	Nil
.. Water samples taken for analysis	31
.. Wells closed	1
.. Wells cleansed, repaired, etc.	4
.. New Wells sunk	3
.. Houses connected to water main	426
.. Seizures of unsound food	3
.. Closets replaced by W.C.'s	19
.. Inspections to Piggeries	5
.. Milk samples taken	24

FARINGDON RURAL DISTRICT

This table gives certain essential figures as a background against which the following pages can be viewed.

	Est. Pop. Mid. 1954	Area in Acres	Total Houses	Council Houses	Rateable Value £	Product of 1d. Rate £ s.
Ashbury	607	5609	170	36	2407	8 10
Baulking	114	1580	38	—	350	1 6
Bourton	363	1260	72	—	1293	4 14
Buckland	646	4505	173	—	2714	10 17
Buscot	275	2887	71	—	1330	5 10
Charney Bassett	168	1209	53	—	489	1 18
Coleshill	235	2014	73	—	664	2 12
Compton Beauchamp	87	1812	32	—	489	1 18
Eaton Hastings	111	1570	35	—	377	1 7
Faringdon	3365	3547	974	261	18331	72 6
Fernham	201	1016	56	8	1021	4 3
Great Coxwell	253	1435	79	12	850	3 6
Hatford	91	993	27	—	321	1 5
Hinton Waldrist	269	2016	78	14	781	3 3
Kingston Lisle	254	2040	71	12	1127	4 11
Little Coxwell	211	887	72	—	949	3 16
Littleworth	277	2350	76	—	979	3 17
Longcot	291	1894	90	12	893	3 10
Longworth	649	2291	189	40	2976	11 16
Pusey	119	1040	32	—	549	2 3
Shellingford	183	1761	55	2	848	3 8
Shrivenham	1707	2695	399†	80	17236	70 5
Stanford	965	2927	280	70	3389	12 2
Uffington	589	2929	181	54	1831	7 4
Watchfield	1318	1517	376*	4	13007	53 16
Woolstone	102	1942	38	—	441	1 13
Totals	13450	55726	3790	605	£75642	£300 16
Totals for 1954	13200	55726	3703	579	£74551	£298 6

†Includes 82 Military Married Quarters

*Includes 289 Military Married Quarters

HOUSING CONSTRUCTION

New houses completed during the year numbered 55. These consisted of 26 Council Houses and 29 built by Private enterprise. A further 56 were under construction on the 31st December 1955, of which 32 were Council Houses and 24 were Private.

The distribution of these 111 houses is shown by the following table:—

Parish	Council Houses		Private Enterprise	
	Completed:	Under Con- struction 31.12.55	Completed:	Under Con- struction 31.12.55
Bourton	—	—	—	2
Buckland	—	—	1	—
Charney Bassett	—	—	—	1
Faringdon	26	7	9	8
Hinton Waldrist	—	—	—	1
Knighton	—	—	1	—
Little Coxwell	—	—	2	1
Littleworth	—	—	1	—
Longworth	—	—	2	3
Shrivenham	—	3	8	6
Stanford-in-the-Vale	—	—	2	2
Uffington	—	—	2	—
Watchfield	—	22	1	—
Totals	26	32	29	24
Totals for 1954	16	26	15	20

RENTS

Rents for all Council properties are fixed at an average economic figure for each class of property.

Excluding a few 4-bedroomed Houses these maximum economic rents range in the case of pre-war houses from 15/- to 17/7 and for post-war houses from 26/6 to 28/6. Tenants however receive rebates which may total up to 7/- for pre-war houses or total 13/9 for post-war houses. These rebates may reduce the rents to minimum figures of between 8/- and 11/7 for pre-war houses and between 12/6d. and 15/3d. for post-war houses.

The disposition of the 22 caravans licensed in individual parishes on the 31st December 1955, was as follows:—

Parish	Caravans	Parish	Caravans
Buckland	1	Shrivenham	5
Eaton Hastings	5	Stanford	1
Faringdon	6	Uffington	1
Little Coxwell	1	Watchfield	1
Longworth	1		

WATER

Quality:

The piped water supplies in the area maintained a reasonable quality throughout the year, while water from private wells continued generally unsatisfactory.

Quantity:

There was no shortage from piped supplies during the year.

New Construction:

An extension of the Comprehensive Water Scheme to Eaton Hastings and Tuck's Lane, Longworth, was commenced during the year. The Eaton Hastings extension will replace the existing private supply of the Buscot Estate which has been highly unsatisfactory for a number of years. The Tuck's Lane extension is for agricultural purposes but one cottage without a piped water supply will benefit.

The Public are still rather slow in taking advantage of the piped water supply but during the year a further 149 applications were received and dealt with.

Piped Water Supplies:

The Comprehensive Water Supply covers the whole district with the exception of Woolstone and Kingston Lisle. The former has a satisfactory private supply and the latter is supplied from the Wantage R.D.C. mains.

Shellingford, Shellingford R.A.F. Station and Buckland have private supplies in addition to the public supply. The Buscot Estate retains their private supply for maintaining the old reservoir and for some irrigation purposes.

All public supplies are chlorinated as is the private supply to Buckland Village.

Examinations:

Routine bacteriological examinations of all piped supplies were made, the results of which are tabulated below. Of those supplies which are chlorinated no samples of raw water were taken prior to chlorination.

Supply	No. of samples	Ministry of Health's Grading			
		Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4
Ashdown Park	4	4	—	—	—
Kingstone Lisle	2	1	1	—	—
Woolstone	3	2	1	—	—
Shellingford	4	3	—	1	—
Buscot and Eaton Hastings	8	1	2	2	3
Buckland	—	—	—	—	—
Folly Hill	7	7	—	—	—
Totals	28	18	4	3	3

The main water supplies in the district are 'hard' and no plumbosolvent action is experienced.

Details of Dwellings Receiving Water from Piped Supplies

Parish	Houses			Approx. Population		
	No.	Direct Supply	Standpipe	No.	Direct Supply	Standpipe
Ashbury	170	144	22	607	504	77
Baulking	38	18	17	114	63	59
Bourton	72	52	20	363	182	70
Buckland	173	84	4	646	294	14
Buscot	71	30	32	275	105	112
Charney Bassett	53	21	4	168	73	14
Coleshill	73	12	45	235	42	157
Compton Beauchamp	32	28	4	87	98	14
Eaton Hastings	35	20	15	111	70	52
Faringdon	974	834	32	3365	2912	112
Fernham	56	47	8	201	164	28
Great Coxwell	79	59	6	253	206	21
Hatford	27	8	8	91	28	28
Hinton Waldrist	78	46	18	269	161	63
Kingston Lisle	71	65	5	254	227	17
Little Coxwell	72	53	14	211	185	49
Littleworth	76	32	2	277	112	7
Longcot	90	71	7	291	248	24
Longworth	189	127	—	649	444	—
Pusey	32	15	5	119	52	17
Shellingford	55	18	20	183	63	70
Shrivenham	399	341	32	1707	1396	112
Stanford	280	143	29	965	980	101
Uffington	181	146	35	589	633	122
Watchfield	376	336	22	1318	1316	77
Woolstone	38	17	16	102	133	56
Totals	3790	2767	422	13450	10701	1473

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Special consideration was given early in the year to the question of the provision of sewerage schemes for the district and following a report from the Engineer and Surveyor an order of priority was agreed upon. As a result the preparation of a scheme for the parish of Kingston Lisle was commenced this to include new sewers through the village together with a modern disposal plant.

Improvements to the drainage of Little Coxwell were commenced during the year following the acquisition of a piece of land to be used as an irrigation area. The main outfall sewer from the village is being extended to the site in question.

REFUSE DISPOSAL AND SALVAGE

The service continued to operate throughout the year without any serious disruption but the quantity of refuse to be handled slowly but steadily increased.

No additional staff were employed during the year, but there was a noticeable deterioration in the condition of the tips. With increasing demands on the collection service, the disposal side had of necessity to be neglected.

Salvage of waste paper continued on a limited scale and the total receipts from the sale of this material during the year amounted to £103 compared with £216 during 1954.

MILK SAMPLING

Five samples of milk as delivered to the Schools in the district were taken during the year and submitted to the Methylene Blue and Phosphatase tests. All samples were found to be satisfactory.

MEAT

There are three licensed Slaughterhouses in the District and the following is a list of carcasses inspected and meat found to be unfit for human consumption:

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	1980	619	2888	905
Number Inspected	1822	600	2736	777
All diseases except Tuberculosis				
Whole carcasses condemned	6	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	104	—	4	24
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	6	—	.2	3.1
Tuberculosis only				
Whole carcasses condemned	3	—	—	—
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	112	—	—	23
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis	6.3	—	—	3

OTHER FOODS

The following other foods were condemned:

40 lbs. Tinned Food. 203 lbs. Beef. 14 lbs. Ox Liver

FOOD PREMISES

Number in district:

Grocers	41	Fish Frying	
Butchers	14	Establishments	2
Confectioners	15	Cafes	8
Greengrocers	4	Fishmongers	1

38 premises are registered for the sale of Ice-Cream under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act and 2 Dairies are registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949.

Number of inspections carried out on food shops	69
Number of inspections carried out on stalls and vehicles ..	6
Number of inspections carried out on cafes and inns	18

BAKEHOUSES

Number in district	8
Number of inspections	9
Defects found and remedied	Nil

HOUSING

During the year a preliminary survey of houses in the district was made in order to formulate the Council's slum clearance proposals under Section 1 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act 1954. It was estimated that approximately 286 houses were unfit for habitation. In view of the difficulties of dealing with houses in the smaller villages it was agreed to form a sub-Committee of the Council to visit each parish early in 1956 with a view to a 5-year programme being drawn up.

Houses inspected under the Housing Acts	409
Number of Closing orders made	2
Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied as a result of informal action	14

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACTS

1. Inspections

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections made	No. of written notices	Prosecutions
Factories (including laundries)	2	10	—	—
Workshops (including laundries)	37	27	—	—
Workplaces	—	—	—	—
Total	49	37	—	—

The number of outworkers in the August list was 2, both engaged in the making of wearing apparel.

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTOR'S WORK DURING THE YEAR 1955

No. of different premises visited	409
„ Visits made	1742
„ Complaints received	41
„ Defects or nuisances discovered	38
„ Notices served (Informal)	12
„ Notices served (Statutory)	2
„ Prosecutions	Nil

Miscellaneous matters in relation to which visits were made:

Nuisances	23
Inadequate or defective sanitary accommodation	4
Drainage	104
Water supplies	137
Infectious Diseases	7
Refuse Collection	82
Refuse Disposal	143
Tents, Vans and Sheds or similar structures	17
Knacker's Yards	2
Unclean Houses	3
Council House applications	175
Butchers' Shops	17
Bakehouses	9
Food Premises	52
Milk Supplies	6
Petroleum Storage	59
Shops (other than Food shops)	21
Factories and Workplaces	28
Schools	23
Miscellaneous Visits	28

Number of Defects or Nuisances abated:

As to Deficient or impure water	129
„ Privies, W.C.'s., Sink Wastes	2
„ Drains or Cesspools	1
„ Other Defects or nuisances	9
No. of Premises disinfected	5
„ Water samples taken for analysis	83
„ Houses connected with water mains	129
„ Seizures or surrenders of Unsound food	4
„ Inspections of Slaughterhouses	543

